



Document L.]

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES,

APRIL 19th, 1852.

Read and ordered to be printed.

REPORT

OF

THE COMMITTEE

ON

COLORED POPULATION

TO THE

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2010 with funding from
Lyrasis Members and Sloan Foundation

REPORT.

The Committee on the Colored Population of Maryland, submit the following Report, and the accompanying Bill.

The Colored Population of Maryland, is divided into the slave and free.

The relations of the former have been so long established and are so thoroughly understood, that legislation is rarely necessary in regard to it: nor is there, now, anything concerning it that requires the especial notice of the committee.

On the other hand, the free colored population, including, as well persons born free, as emancipated slaves, has been made, again and again, the subject of legislative action; and, at this time, circumstances give to all matters connected with it, a more than ordinary interest.

There are more free colored persons in Maryland, than in any other State of the Union; the number, according to the census of 1850, being 74,723. In the city of Baltimore, there are 25,475. Anne Arundel contains 4,602, which is the largest number in any one county; the smallest number being in Allegany county, where there are 412.

At the first census, of 1790, the entire free colored population of Maryland, was but 8043, and the white population 208,649. The present white population being 417,943, it will be observed, that, while the free colored population has increased *ninefold*, the white population has only *doubled*, in the last sixty years.

The entire colored population, slave and free, of the State, in 1790, was 111,079, of which 103,034 were slaves. The entire colored population, in 1850, was 164,445, of which 90,368 were slaves. The free colored had increased, in the sixty years, 66,680, the slaves had diminished 12,668. In 1810, the slaves numbered 111,502; which was the largest number ever held, at one time, in Maryland.

From these figures it will be noted, that the increase of the aggregate of the entire colored population has been owing, entirely, to the increase of the free portion of it, which has been, uninterruptedly going on, at almost an uniform rate, while the slaves have decreased, by 12,668, since the first census.

The increase of the white population, from 1830 to 1840, was in the ratio of 9.3 per cent. only; while the free black population increased in the ratio of 17.26—ratios of increase, respectively, which, if maintained for many successive census periods, would have, ultimately, placed the free colored population, so far as numbers were concerned, in the ascendancy. Less notice was taken of this revelation of the census of 1840, than was to have been expected from its very suggestive character, especially as there were few, if any circumstances, to indicate a change in the ratios of increase. The census of 1850, exhibits a far more satisfactory state of things; for, although the ratio of increase of the free colored population had advanced from 17.26 to 19.44, yet the white population has increased in the ratio of 31.74 per cent. in the same period.

These statements are general. Their interest is not lessened by looking into their details. For instance, in 1790, there were 100 white persons for every 10 free colored, in Kent county; in 1840, the proportion was lessened to 20 whites for 10 free colored, and the late census shews the further reduction to 17 whites, only, for 10 free colored. From 1840 to 1850, the white population remained stationary in Kent—the return of both census being the same—5,616, while the increase of the free colored population in the interval, was 652.

In eleven counties, the ratio of increase of the free colored population has been greater than that of the white, between 1840 and 1850. In Charles county, the white population has actually decreased, and in Kent it has remained stationary, while the free colored population has increased 94 in the former, and 652 in the latter county.

The committee might continue, and apply the details of the census to the different counties. But it is unnecessary in this place. They have said thus much to draw attention to tables, annexed to their report, and which exhibit all the information that can be required on this interesting branch of the State's statistics.

This interest grows out of the fact, that the population, to which these statistics relate, and which they shew to be steadily increasing in our midst—is one, with which there never can be that amalgamation, that social and political equality, which shall unite it with the white and dominant population as one people, with common sympathies, interests and destiny.

That the presence of two races in Maryland, under such circumstances, can be advantageous to either, or promote the prosperity of the State, no one pretends. In the inevitable competition that must exist between them for employment, in all the avenues of labor, the weaker must go to the wall, whenever the population becomes so dense as to reduce the wages of labor to a minimum.

At this time, when the aggregate population of Maryland,

white and colored, is 583,035—there seems to be room for both races, so far as mere subsistence is concerned, although, even now, white men are to be found in many occupations, which, a few years since, were held by colored persons, almost exclusively. The ratio of increase, from 1840 to 1850, maintained until 1890, would give to Maryland, at that time, a population of 1,380,196. But, supposing it was *doubled* only, in the next 40 years, it cannot be doubted that the difficulties which, now, often-times beset the free colored people in their search for employment, would be grievously increased.

That these difficulties arise from the increase in our aggregate population, is proved by the fact, that it is only within the last ten years that they have been at all recognized and made the subject of remark—a fact explained by reference to the statistics already so largely drawn upon.

Between 1830 and 1840, the aggregate increase of the white and colored population, was 22,979, or 5.1 per cent only; while from 1840 to 1850, it was 113,016, or 24.04 per cent., the increase of the free colored population in the two periods, being 9,140 and 11,989, respectively. The immigration into Baltimore alone, for the first of these terms, had been 55,322, and for the last 68,392.

Now while the increase of 5.1 per cent. in ten years, from 1830 to 1840, was not sensibly felt in the market for labor, the increase of 24.04 per cent. from 1840 to 1850, was often severely felt, especially when an increased foreign immigration, of a class of persons, who become at once the competitors of the free people of color, formed so large an item in the aggregate increase.

But while all are willing to admit that the presence in the State of the two races thus referred to, is advantageous to neither of them, and is full of gloomy portent, it is difficult to say what is the exactly right and just course to be adopted, so far as legislation is concerned, under the circumstances.

That the two races must ultimately separate, the committee do not doubt. Their separation is the only solution of the political problem to which their present existence together gives rise, and this being conceded, there is but one place to which they can remove as a body—and that is Africa. In no spot on the continent of America, in none of the adjacent Islands, can they establish themselves as an independent people. They must get out of the way of the white man, and go where he cannot live; not in view of the present population of this Hemisphere perhaps, but in view of the time when the white men of the New World shall equal in numbers the white men of the Old World. Africa is the only place which fulfils all the exigencies of the occasion. It is the country of the colored race, and a country where the white race cannot live.

In 1831, the Legislature of Maryland, with a forecast

that was prophetic, anticipated this period—whose advent, few then thought, was among the possibilities of the future—when an increasing white population, and a more active competition for employment, would make it apparent to both races that they must separate, and that the weaker of the two would be obliged to remove, by the force of circumstances which no human power could control.

Against this time, it was the policy of the State to provide, and they did it, by appropriating \$200,000 to the preparation of a place to which the free people of color and emancipated slaves might be removed, with their own consent, on the coast of Africa. This fund was placed under charge of three Managers appointed by the Governor, giving bond, and acting without compensation. After a time, they found it better to employ the agency of the Maryland State Colonization Society, a body incorporated by the State, and enjoying an income from individual contributions and other sources. The Managers made reports of their proceedings from time to time, to the Executive—the annual meetings of the State Society were generally held in Annapolis; its operations were kept before the public eye—attempts were sometimes made in the Legislature to withdraw the State's appropriation, when the results of the whole subject, and the condition, population and growth of the Colony, for the establishment of which the funds of the State were used, were made matters of discussion—so that it may be fairly said, that the colony of Maryland in Liberia, contemplated generally by the Legislature of 1831, has grown to its present shape and consistency under the auspices of the State. It is an illustration, not less of the wisdom than the humanity of the authors of the act of 1831. It now presents the place to which the free colored people of the State may emigrate, when they shall become satisfied that it is their interest to do so. Thus far, the obligation which their presence among us, without fault of their own, as a distinct race, has imposed upon us, has been discharged, and the committee are satisfied from the information that has been afforded them, that an eligible and happy home has been prepared for all those who choose to seek it on the coast of Africa.

Among the papers which have been submitted to the committee, are the reports of the Managers of the State fund and of the State Colonization Society, and which, although already before the House of Delegates, the committee desire to make a part of this report.

From these, it appears, that the entire expenditure of the State Society, has been \$317,049.18, of which \$186,922.16 was received from the Managers of the State fund—and the balance of \$130,127.02 was the contribution, in aid of the State's objects, from the State Society.

It also appears, that the number of emigrants sent from Mary-

land has been 1078—and that the public revenue of the colony, applicable to its support and defence is now upwards, somewhat, of \$2000, and is steadily increasing. For other particulars in regard to the colony, the committee refer to the report already mentioned.

The Managers and the Society both state, that the colony is not yet able to maintain its present condition without aid from this country; that its income is not sufficient, yet, to meet its civil list; and that the necessity, yet, of paying for the transportation of emigrants to it, and their maintenance for a season after their arrival, requires means, to be obtained on this side of the Atlantic; and they unite in urging upon the State, the continuation of the appropriation of \$10,000 per annum, which has heretofore been paid, under the act of 1831, and which expired by limitation, with the year just ended.

It is very strongly represented to the Committee, and the experience of some of them confirms the statement, that of late, within perhaps the last two years, a change has taken place in the opinions of the free people of color, in regard to colonization; and that they now admit, that sooner or later, they will have to adopt the alternative of colonization, rather than remain in the State; and, it is urged, with much reason, upon the Committee, that the increasing emigration, which must be the result of this change of opinion, is, in itself, the only means through which the colony will be enabled, with the increase of its population, to bear all of its expenses without further help from the United States. And, it is further urged, that a check to the emigration at this time, for a want of means consequent upon a discontinuance of the State's appropriation, would be greatly to be deplored, and would operate, materially, to retard the accomplishment of the State's object in becoming, originally, a contributor to the cause of Colonization.

In the propriety of these views, the Committee are most ready to concur. To stop now, when the object to be accomplished under the act of 1831, is on the eve of completion, would be to deny the policy of a legislation which circumstances shew to have been most wise and just.

The Committee are satisfied with the prudence that has marked the expenditure of the funds of the State, and acknowledge the advantages that have resulted from the employment of the agency of the State Society; and having every reason to rely upon the same care and judgment for the future that have been exhibited in the past, they recommend the continuance of the State's appropriation for the further period of ten years, unless the Legislature choose to repeal it in the meanwhile.

The Committee deem it only proper to say, in this connection, that they do not look upon the number of emigrants that have been transported to Africa, by the State Society, as, by any means, the

proper standard by which to estimate the success of colonization. The true standard is the condition and capacity of the colony, in view of the purposes for which it was established. Does it afford a safe and comfortable home, in a congenial climate, to which the free people of color may emigrate when circumstances shall make it their interest to do so presently, at the expense of the State and others—hereafter, as commerce grows up between the two countries, at their own expense, as German and Irish emigrants now come to America? If this question can be satisfactorily answered, and the Committee believe that it can be, the Society has done all that could be reasonably required of it, and has fulfilled, so far, the purpose of its existence.

Nor do the Committee believe that the small number already transported to Africa, affords any argument against the efficiency of colonization to remove the entire free colored population of the State, whenever this population finds it their interest to remove. The foreign immigration into Baltimore, alone, in 1847, was 12,000—not one individual of which, probably, had his expenses paid for him. The same emigration from Maryland to Liberia, would, *in six years*, carry off the entire free colored population of the State. That there should be such an emigration, it is necessary that there should be a desire to emigrate, and the means for emigration. Circumstances are producing the first, and the growth of the colonies on the coast, the result of these circumstances, is rapidly creating the commerce that will afford the last.

The Committee submit herewith a Bill, to carry out the recommendations of this report.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN FLEMING, Chairman.



A BILL

Entitled, an act to continue the State's appropriation for the benefit of African colonization.

Whereas, by an act of the General Assembly of Maryland, passed at December session, 1831, chapter 281, entitled, an act relating to the people of color of this State, an appropriation was made, to be applied by the managers mentioned in the said act, in removing emancipated slaves, and free people of color to the colony of Liberia or elsewhere, out of the State, and in making preparations at said colony or elsewhere, as the said managers might think best, which should seem to them expedient for the reception, accommodation and support of the persons to be removed, until they could support themselves, and which appropriation, amounting, in the aggregate, to two hundred thousand dollars, was assessed upon the several counties of the State and Baltimore city, at the rate of ten thousand dollars per annum, in the proportions in the said act, as modified by the act of 1838, chapter 269, changing the assessment of Frederick county, particularly described; and, whereas, the said appropriation ceased at the end of the year 1851; and, whereas, it is desirable that the same should be renewed and continued so, that the policy of the State, in providing a home, in Africa, for the emancipated slaves and free colored population, and for their removal thither, may be maintained and carried out; therefore,

Section 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the Treasurer of the State be, and he is hereby required to pay, on the warrant of the Comptroller, to the Board of Managers, appointed under the act of 1831, chapter, 281, the sum of ten thousand dollars, annually, for the space of ten years, commencing with the year 1852, in the manner in which he has heretofore paid the like amount under the act last aforesaid, to be appropriated for the purposes in the said act mentioned.

Sec. 2. And be it enacted, That the Comptroller of the State, be and he is hereby required to issue his warrants to the Treasurer, on the drafts or requisitions of the said Board of Managers, so as to authorise the payment by him of the amounts aforesaid.

Sec. 3. And be it enacted, That the assessment of the said act of 1831, chapter 281, be and the same is hereby continued

for the space of ten years from the 1st day of January, 1852, to be levied and collected, as provided in the said act, and the supplement thereto, except that the sum to be levied and collected in Anne Arundel county, shall be and the sum to be levied and collected in Howard county, shall be

Sec. 4. And be it enacted, That the appropriation now made shall be applied to the benefit exclusively of persons of color, who shall have been bona fide residents in Maryland, for the space of five years next preceeding their application to become emigrants.

Sec. 5. And be it enacted, That the Legislature reserves the right to repeal, at any time, the appropriation now made or any part thereof.

POPULATION OF THE COUNTIES OF MARYLAND,

In 1790, 1800, 1810, 1820, 1830, 1840, and 1850, as shewn by
the Census taken in those years.

		Slaves.	F. Col.	White.	Total.
<i>Cecil County.</i>	1790	3,407	163	10,055	13,625
	1800	2,103	373	6,542	9,018
	1810	2,467	947	9,652	13,066
	1820	2,342	1,783	11,821	16,046
	1830	1,705	2,249	11,478	15,432
	1840	1,352	2,551	13,279	17,232
	1850	244	2,623	15,472	18,939

		Slaves.	F. Col.	White.	Total.
<i>Keat County.</i>	1790	5,443	655	6,748	12,836
	1800	4,474	1,780	5,511	11,771
	1810	4,249	1,979	5,222	11,450
	1820	4,071	2,067	5,315	11,453
	1830	3,191	2,260	5,050	10,501
	1840	2,735	2,491	5,616	10,842
	1850	2,627	3,143	5,616	11,386

		Slaves.	F. Col.	White.	Total.
<i>Caroline County.</i>	1790	2,057	421	7,028	9,506
	1800	1,865	602	6,759	9,226
	1810	1,520	1,001	6,932	9,453
	1820	1,574	1,390	7,144	10,108
	1830	1,171	1,652	6,247	9,070
	1840	752	1,720	5,334	7,806
	1850	803	2,788	6,095	9,692

		Slaves.	F. Col.	White.	Total.
<i>Talbot County.</i>	1790	4,777	1,076	7,221	13,084
	1800	4,775	1,591	7,070	13,436
	1810	4,878	2,003	7,349	14,230
	1820	4,769	2,234	7,386	14,389
	1830	4,173	2,483	6,291	12,947
	1840	3,687	2,340	6,063	12,090
	1850	4,134	2,593	7,084	13,811

		Slaves.	F. Col.	White.	Total.
<i>Queen Anne's County.</i>	1790	6,674	618	8,171	15,463
	1800	6,517	1,025	7,315	14,857
	1810	6,381	2,738	7,529	16,648
	1820	5,588	2,138	7,226	14,952
	1830	4,872	2,866	6,559	14,397
	1840	3,960	2,532	6,132	12,033
	1850	4,270	3,278	6,936	14,484

		Slaves.	F. Col.	White.	Total.
<i>Somerset County.</i>	1790	7,070	268	8,272	15,610
	1800	7,432	586	9,340	17,358
	1810	6,975	1,053	9,162	17,195
	1820	7,241	1,952	10,386	19,579
	1830	6,556	2,239	11,371	20,166
	1840	5,377	2,646	11,485	19,508
	1850	5,588	3,483	13,385	22,455

		Slaves.	F. Col.	White.	Total.
<i>Dorchester County.</i>	1790	5,377	528	10,010	15,875
	1800	4,566	2,365	9,415	16,346
	1810	5,032	2,661	10,415	18,109
	1820	5,168	2,497	10,094	17,759
	1830	5,001	3,000	10,685	18,686
	1840	4,227	3,987	10,629	18,843
	1850	4,282	3,848	10,747	18,877

		Slaves.	F. Col.	White.	Total.
<i>Worcester County.</i>	1790	3,836	178	7,626	11,640
	1800	4,398	449	11,523	16,370
	1810	4,427	1,054	11,490	16,971
	1820	4,551	1,636	11,234	17,421
	1830	4,032	2,430	11,811	18,273
	1840	3,539	3,073	11,765	18,377
	1850	3,444	3,014	12,401	18,859

		Slaves.	F. Col.	White.	Total.
<i>Allegany County.</i>	1790	258	12	4,539	4,809
	1800	499	101	5,703	6,303
	1810	620	113	6,176	6,909
	1820	795	195	7,664	8,654
	1830	818	222	9,569	10,609
	1840	812	215	14,663	15,690
	1850	724	412	21,633	22,769

		Slaves.	F. Col.	White.	Total.
<i>Washington County.</i>	1790	1,286	64	14,472	15,822
	1800	2,200	342	16,108	18,650
	1810	2,656	483	15,591	18,730
	1820	3,201	627	19,247	23,075
	1830	2,909	1,084	21,275	25,268
	1840	2,536	1,580	24,734	28,850
	1850	2,090	1,828	26,930	30,848

		Slaves.	F. Col.	White.	Total.
<i>Frederick County.</i>	1790	3,641	213	26,937	30,791
	1800	4,572	473	26,478	31,523
	1810	5,671	783	27,983	34,437
	1820	6,555	1,777	32,097	40,459
	1830	6,370	2,716	36,703	45,789
	1840	4,054	2,378	24,791	31,223
	1850	3,913	3,760	33,314	40,987

		Slaves.	F. Col.	White.	Total.
<i>Baltimore County.</i>	1790	5,877	604	18,953	25,434
	1800	6,830	1,536	24,150	32,516
	1810	6,697	1,537	21,021	29,255
	1820	6,720	2,163	24,580	33,463
	1830	6,533	3,098	30,625	40,250
	1840	4,396	3,486	24,184	32,066
	1850	3,772	3,633	34,187	41,592

		Slaves.	F. Col.	White.	Total.
<i>Baltimore City.</i>	1790	1,255	323	11,925	13,503
	1800	2,843	2,771	20,900	26,514
	1810	4,672	5,671	36,212	46,555
	1820	4,357	10,326	48,055	62,739
	1830	4,120	14,790	61,710	80,620
	1840	3,199	17,967	81,147	102,313
	1850	2,946	25,442	140,666	169,054

		Slaves.	F. Col.	White.	Total.
<i>Harford County.</i>	1790	3,417	775	10,784	14,976
	1800	4,264	1,344	12,018	17,626
	1810	4,431	2,221	14,606	21,258
	1820	3,320	1,387	11,217	15,924
	1830	2,984	2,048	11,287	16,319
	1740	2,643	2,436	12,041	17,120
	1850	2,166	2,777	14,413	19,356

		Slaves.	F. Col.	White.	Total.
<i>Montgomery County.</i>	1790	6,030	204	11,679	18,003
	1800	6,288	262	8,508	15,058
	1810	7,572	677	9,731	17,980
	1820	6,396	922	9,082	16,400
	1830	6,447	1,266	12,103	19,816
	1840	5,135	1,255	8,279	14,669
	1850	5,114	1,311	9,435	15,800

		Slaves.	F. Col.	White.	Total.
<i>Prince George's County.</i>	1790	11,176	164	10,004	21,344
	1800	12,191	643	8,346	21,185
	1810	9,189	4,929	6,471	20,589
	1820	11,285	1,096	7,835	20,216
	1830	11,585	1,202	7,667	20,474
	1840	10,636	1,080	7,823	19,539
	1850	11,510	1,138	8,901	21,549

		Slaves.	F. Col.	White.	Total.
<i>St. Mary's County.</i>	1790	6,985	343	8,216	15,544
	1800	6,399	622	6,678	13,699
	1810	6,000	636	6,158	12,794
	1820	6,048	804	6,032	12,974
	1830	6,183	1,179	6,097	13,459
	1840	5,761	1,393	6,070	13,224
	1850	5,842	1,633	6,233	13,698

		Slaves.	F. Col.	White.	Total.
<i>Calvert County.</i>	1790	4,305	136	4,211	8,652
	1800	4,401	307	3,889	8,297
	1810	3,937	388	3,860	8,005
	1820	3,668	694	3,716	8,078
	1830	3,899	1,213	3,788	8,900
	1840	4,170	1,474	3,585	9,229
	1850	4,486	1,530	3,630	9,646

		Slaves.	F. Col.	White.	Total.
<i>Charles County.</i>	1790	10,085	404	10,124	20,613
	1800	9,558	571	9,043	19,172
	1810	12,435	412	7,398	20,245
	1820	9,419	567	6,514	16,500
	1830	10,129	851	6,789	17,769
	1840	9,182	819	6,022	16,023
	1850	9,584	913	5,665	16,162

		Slaves.	F. Col.	White.	Total.
<i>Anne Arundel County.</i>	1790	10,130	804	11,664	22,598
	1800	9,760	1,833	11,030	22,623
	1810	11,693	2,536	12,439	26,668
	1820	10,328	3,382	13,455	27,165
	1830	9,997	4,076	14,222	28,295
	1840	9,420	4,497	12,923	26,840
	1850	11,249	4,602	16,542	32,393

		Slaves.	F. Col.	White.	Total.
<i>Carroll County.</i>	1790				
	1800				
	1810				
	1820				
	1830				
	1840				
	1850	975	974	18,667	20,616

Population of Maryland, at the seven Census periods ending 1850.

	White.	Slaves.	Free Col.	Agg. Col.	Total.
1790	208,649	103,036	8,043	111,079	319,728
1800	216,326	105,635	19,587	125,238	341,548
1810	235,117	111,502	33,927	145,429	380,546
1820	259,522	107,998	39,730	147,728	407,350
1830	291,108	102,994	52,938	155,932	447,040
1840	317,717	89,495	62,020	151,515	469,232
1850	417,943	90,368	74,723	165,091	583,035

MEMORANDA RELATING TO THE POPULATION OF MARYLAND.

Counties.	Number of Whites to every ten Free Colored persons.			Ratio of increase of White and Free Colored, between 1840 and 1850.		Actual increase of White and Free Colored, between 1840 and 1850.	
	1790.	1840.	1850.	White.	Free Colored.	White.	Free Colored.
Allegany,	3780	680	548	66.	85.	6,970	197
Washington,	2260	160	147	9.	19.	2,196	248
Frederick,	1260	130	88	27.	52.	8,523	1,382
Baltimore city,	370	45	55	78.	34.	59,579	7,475
Baltimore county,	230	100	95	41.	3.	10,063	147
Harford,	140	47	51	19.	14.	2,372	341
Montgomery,	390	67	71	13.7	4.4	1,156	56
Prince George's,	610	70	75	13.	5.3	1,678	58
Charles,	250	70	61	Diminished.	10.	Diminished.	increase 94
Saint Mary's,	240	42	38	7.	15.	inc. 153	240
Calvert,	300	26	23	.7	3.	45	56
Anne Arundel,	140	28	36	17.6	2.3	3,618	105
Carroll,		170	190				
Cecil,	610	52	59	16.	2.8	2,193	72
Kent,	100	20	17	00.	22.	00	652
Caroline,	160	31	22	14.	62.	762	1,068
Talbot,	67	21	27	15.	10.	1,021	253

Queen Anne's,
Somerset,
Dorchester,
Worcester,

130
300
190
430

23
43
27
38

21
38
27
41

14.
16.
.5
.5

24.
30.
Diminished.
16.9

804
1,900
118
636

746
737
Dim'd 139
50

6043

6044

6045

6046

6047

6048

6049

6050

6051

6052

6053

6054

6055

6056

6057

6058

6059

6060

6061

6062

6063

6064

6065

6066

6067

6068

6069

6070

